

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM, SGEN

SUBJ: 60TH ECOSOC--AGENDA ITEM 7, HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

1. SUMMARY. SOCIAL COMITE CONSIDERED THIS ITEM ON APRIL 28 WITH STATEMENTS BY DENMARK (CRITIZING THE FAILURE OF THE COMMISSION TO LIVE UP TO ITS PROMISE), ITALY (FOCUSING ON THE NEED FOR ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS), AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA (STANDARD SOVIET-BLOC PRESENTATION), AND THE ICFTU (INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS). END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES STATEMENTS ON THIS ITEM IN THE SOCIAL COMITE ON APRIL 28.

3. THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (SCHREIBER) CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMITE THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING RESOLUTION 5(XXXII) WHICH NEVER-THELESS HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY MAJORITY VOTE AND NOTED THAT THE COUNCL WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON THE CIRCULATION OF COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO CHILE AND "THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" IN SO FAR AS THESE CASES WERE BEING CON-

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SIDERED UNDERTHE 1503 CONFIDENTIAL PROCEDURES. HE

REPORTED ON THE STATUS OF THE FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS OF  
VIOLATIONS OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS:

A. SOUTH AFRICA--REPORT OF EXPERTS BEFORE THE  
COUNCIL (E/5767);

B. LESOTHO--UNDER INVESTIGATION BY ILO; AND

C. BAHAMAS--HAS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE  
NATURE OF THE CHARGES.

4. THE REP OF DENMARK SAID THAT THE 32D SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) REPRESENTED A LOW POINT WHICH PROPHESIZED A GLOOMY FUTURE FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. IN PARTICULAR HE CRITICIZED THE INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO THE DISREGARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, THE FAILURE OF THE COMMISSION TO PURSUE "UNIVERSAL NOT SELECTIVE AIMS," AND THE FAILURE OF THE COMMISSION TO DEAL WITH 1503 CASES OR TO TREAT MEANINGFULLY THE ISSUES OF IDEOLOGICAL, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL PERSECUTION AND OF TORTURE. HE DEPLORED THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 5 AND SUGGESTED THAT CONTRARY TO THE CSCE, THE PURPOSE OF THE SPONSORS WAS TO DEFER PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS UNTIL CONDITIONS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. FINALLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HCHR) AND URGED COUNTRIES TO JOIN THE VARIOUS CONVENTIONS.

5. THE ITALIAN REP FOCUSED ON POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF THE COMMISSION WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SHORT AND PRECISE AGENDAS, CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF SUBGROUPS, POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS TO PERMIT MORE IMMEDIATE REACTIONS TO SITUATIONS, AND THE IMPACT OF THE CURRENT RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE ON THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE ITALIAN REP HAS GIVEN US A COPY OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH SHE PROPOSES TO SUBMIT, PROVIDED THERE IS SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR ITS APPROVAL. TEST TRANSMITTED PARA 8.

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6. THE STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REP WAS A STANDARD SOVIET-BLOC PRESENTATION WHICH CONDEMNED RACISM AND APARTHEID, DEcried THE SITUATION IN CHILE AND THE "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" AND PLEDGED HIS COUNTRY'S SUPPORT TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. SMID ALSO STATED THAT THE "RIGHT TO LIFE" SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE HRC LONG-TERM PROGRAM.

7. ICFTU CRITICIZED SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPRESSION OF TRADE UNIONS AND CITED HEINEMANN COMPANY, A SUBSIDIARY OF A US-BASED FIRM (SIC), FOR REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE A WORKERS UNION. ICFTU STATED HEINEMANN SHOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRESTS AND INJURIES SUFFERED BY SOUTH AFRICANS DURING DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE THE PLANT BY UNION SUPPORTERS.

8. TEXT OF PROPOSED ITALIAN RES FOLLOWS. DEPT COMMENTS REQUESTED.

PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

CONSIDERING THE NECESSITY TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, AND THE TASKS ENTRUSTED TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE EFFECTIVE RECOGNITION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHEREVER THEY OCCUR,

HAVING CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS XXXII SESSION AND, IN PARTICULAR, ITS RESOLUTION 7 (XXXII),

NOTING WITH CONCERN THAT THE COMMISSION IS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES IN THE CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA, NOTABLY THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES,

1. URGES THE COMMISSION TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE RECOGNITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND TO ELIMINATE VIOLATIONS WHEREVER THEY OCCUR;

2. AUTHORIZES, AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, THE BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION AT ITS XXXII SESSION TO MEET FOR THREE DAYS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE XXXIII SESSION TO CONSIDER WAYS AND MEANS WHICH MIGHT ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT ITS FUNCTIONS AT ITS BEST HAVING REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS:

A) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROPER BALANCE AMONG THE LONG-TERM CONCERN IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND MATTERS OF AN URGENT NATURE;

B) THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK BY GROUPING OF ITEMS

AND THEIR POSSIBLE REDUCTION THROUGH ADVANCED PLANNING OF  
VARIOUS SESSIONS;

C) THE MORE FREQUENT RE COURSE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
WORKING GROUPS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS;

3. REQUESTS THE BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION AT ITS XXXII  
SESSION TO PRESENT TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS XXXIII SESSION  
A REPORT ON THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED IN PURSUANCE OF THE  
COMMISSION'S RESOLUTION 7 (XXXII) AND THE PRESENT RESOLUTION,  
TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMISSION TOGETHER WITH THE ADOPTION  
OF THE AGENDA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A TIMETABLE FOR THE  
SESSION.

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